



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KC MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR
VIOLATING FIREARMS LAW**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law. Today's sentencing, Graves said, marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Stephen Brown, 37, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to 15 years in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 18, 2003, **Brown** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Brown** admitted that he was in possession of an RG Industries .22 caliber revolver on April 22, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Brown** has two 1999 criminal felony convictions for distribution of a controlled substance, two 1994 criminal felony convictions for stealing, a 1994 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, two 1988 criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing, a 1987 criminal felony conviction for receiving stolen property and a 1984 criminal felony conviction for tampering.

Brown was arrested on 22, 2003, following a police pursuit. After a brief vehicle chase, Graves said, **Brown** fled on foot from the vehicle he had been driving. He was caught a couple of blocks away, and police officers found the revolver beneath the driver's seat of the vehicle.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow